

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/052,145	KONUMA ET AL.	
	Examiner V. Paul Harper	Art Unit 2626	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to 9/14/2005.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,3,5 and 7.
3. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All
 - b) Some*
 - c) None
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other _____.

V Paul Harper
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2626

Examiner's Amendment/Reasons for Allowance

Examiner's Amendment

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Lawrence E. Ashery on 3/21/06.

The application has been amended as follows:

Beginning of amendments

In **claim 5**, line 1, replace the phrase “A program product for” with –A computer program stored in a computer-readable medium for--.

In **claim 7**, line 2, replace the phrase “recording a program” with –recording a computer program--.

End of amendments

Reasons for Allowance

2. Claims 1, 3, 5 and 7 are allowed.

It is noted that the closest prior art of record, Schwartz et al. (US Patent 5,241,619), discloses a speech recognition system that performs an N-best search where a maximum of n word theories that exceed a threshold are kept, but Schwartz does not teach (**for claims 1, 5 and 7**) the first hypothesis-storage determining criterion selects candidate words from the developed hypothesis within a predetermined threshold from a maximum value of the recognition score, wherein a number of candidate words stored according to the first hypothesis-storage determining criterion when within the word is independent of the second hypothesis-storage determining criterion, and the second hypothesis-storage determining criterion selects a subset of candidate words from among the at least one hypothetic candidate words selected according to the first hypothesis-storage determining criterion, the subset of candidate words selected according to a predetermined number of upper ranking recognition scores;

Or (**for claim 3**) the first hypothesis-storage determining criterion selects from among the at least one hypothetic candidate words from the developed hypothesis within a predetermined threshold from a maximum value of the recognition score, wherein a number of candidate words stored according to the first hypothesis-storage determining criterion when within the word is independent of the second hypothesis-storage determining criterion, and the second hypothesis-storage determining criterion

selects a subset of candidate words from among the at least one hypothetic candidate words selected according to the first hypothesis-storage determining criterion, the subset of candidate words selected according to a predetermined number of upper ranking recognition scores.

Thus, independent claims 1, 3, 5 and 7 are allowable over the prior art of record because the cited prior art alone or in combination, does not fairly suggest or disclose the claimed combination of features.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to V. Paul Harper whose telephone number is (571) 272-7605. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Hudspeth can be reached on (571) 272-7843. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

3/22/06

V. Paul Harper
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2626

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "V. Paul Harper". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "P" and "H".